

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF CO-PARTNERS & AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS ICESBA 2023 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

1. **The American Association for Economic Research, New York City, USA**, carries out research on cognitive technology-driven automation, and its president is Michael A. Peters, Emeritus Professor, University of Illinois. Top-ranking universities where the authors are located: Harvard University, University of Oxford, Yale University, Princeton University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Cambridge, Stanford University, Boston University, etc.
2. **Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University (ATMU)** trains people in tourism in Baku, Azerbaijan. The institution is established under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The professional goals of the university include improvement of the tourism industry, training personnel to meet the needs for qualified personnel in the field of travel, leisure and hospitality. In 2014, the institute became the university of tourism and management (*Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University*). Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University cooperates with many local and international organizations. Within the framework of cooperation, several research and development projects, teacher / student exchanges have been implemented.
3. **Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU)** prepares specialized engineering talents for Azerbaijan. ASOIU offers specialist training at all three levels of higher education: bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. Currently, the university offers 30 programs across 7 faculties, with 18 programs having received international accreditation. Furthermore, ASOIU collaborates with two prestigious universities, ASOIU-Strasbourg University and ASOIU-Warwick University, in dual-degree programs. The university currently cooperates with more than 400 state and private institutions, providing students with practical experience and ensuring their future employment. According to recent surveys, 75% of ASOIU graduates secure permanent employment immediately after graduation. In the 2023 QS World Ranking, ASOIU stands at 271st globally for employment rate, claiming the top spot in Azerbaijan. ASOIU places great emphasis on international relations. The university maintains direct partnerships with over 75 universities from more than 25 countries. As a higher education institution, ASOIU's main goals include the preparation of highly specialized engineering professionals and the establishment of itself as a research-focused university. In just the 2022-2023 academic year, the university's faculty published 350 research articles in globally recognized databases such as "Scopus" and "Web of Science." ASOIU ranks 434th in the "QS Europe World University Ranking 2024." According to QS World Ranking, it also ranks 22nd in the "Western Asia 2024" list of the best Asian universities.
4. **Bialystok University of Technology, Bialystok, Poland.** Bialystok University of Technology was established in 1949. The University continues the rich tradition of higher education in Bialystok. It was created on the basis of infrastructure, academic staff and scientific achievements of other Bialystok universities. Currently, Bialystok University of Technology is the largest technical university in north-eastern Poland. The university mission is high-quality education of students and young scientists, conducting scientific research at the highest international level and commercialisation of research results. In cooperation with the economic environment, the university implement innovative technical solutions that affect the innovativeness of the economy. They also take action in response to social needs.
5. **ICCS Central Research Institute of Spiru Haret University** is the research structure at the University level, providing the scientific and methodological coordination of the University research centers. **Central Research Institute** aims to:
 - consolidate the multidisciplinary academic research (inter- and intradisciplinary);

- provide the conditions required by the University to participate in national and international research networks and programmes;
- provide specific services to various beneficiaries;
- assist the University publications be cited, by their inclusion into international databases;
- provide constant financing sources;
- increase performance and scientific outcome of the teaching and research personnel at the University, at the national and international levels;
- educate the undergraduate students, master and PhD for best performance and scientific competitiveness;
- engage real-world research problems through public/private partnerships

6. **Cardiff Metropolitan University** delivers professionally recognised degrees, together with impactful research and innovation, in art and design, business and management, education and public services, sport and health sciences, and technologies and engineering.

As a driver of education and social transformation, the university work with purpose to ensure that every student can realise their full potential to their own and future generations. This university is a catalyst for innovation and the economy, and a key contributor to inclusive and sustainable growth both nationally and internationally. A collaborative and compassionate community, their values of creativity, diversity, freedom and innovation are lived through the behaviours of their staff and students.

7. **Faculty of Contemporary Arts, Belgrade, Serbia** is part of **University Business Academy in Novi Sad, Serbia**, being an accredited faculty of performing and applied arts offering a wide range of essential skills for any 21st-century artist. It was founded in 1997 as the first private faculty of arts in those parts of Serbia. It has formed many successful and renowned artists, known not only in the region, but also in the world's preeminent art centres. The study program was designed in accordance with modern trends in artistic practice that impose no limits between artistic media, ways of expression, and the artist's sensibility. The study program includes Bachelor, Master and PhD studies.

8. **Faculty of Economics and Engineering Management in Novi Sad (FIMEK)** represents a perfect combination of professional, modern and recognized education and training designed for those who wish to succeed and advance in their business and career life. The faculty is completely focused on students, to whom the faculty wish to offer top-quality education and maintain continuity in their academic and personal development. Applying an innovative approach to education, Faculty of Economics and Engineering Management in Novi Sad is today a dynamic learning community that assumes a proactive role in the society and continuously strives to improve teaching processes and overall system operation. Their curricula is designed and developed in line with modern study concepts, which imply the possibility of custom-made program structure and study content that each student can choose, namely, modules and elective courses. The structure of their curricula is in accordance with the reformed higher education systems in Europe.

9. **Faculty of Engineering Management, Białystok University of Technology, Slovakia** was established in 2001 by the Minister of National Education and Sports as a result of the transformation of the Institute of Management and Marketing which had existed since 1993. Considering the number of students, the Faculty of Engineering Management is currently the second largest faculty at Białystok University of Technology with over 1600 students. So far, more than 15,000 graduates have completed studies at the Faculty of Engineering Management. The faculty employs 116 research and teaching personnel who are grouped into four units. Faculty of Engineering Management provides education in the following fields:

- Management and Production Engineering – Bachelor and Master
- Management and Services Engineering – Bachelor

- Logistics – Bachelor and Master
- Management – Bachelor and Master
- Tourism and Recreation – Bachelor
- Furniture Engineering – Bachelor (extramural).

10. **Information technology School ITS-Belgrade** is the first accredited private higher education institution in the information technology sphere in Serbia. It offers exquisite conditions for studying, state of the art equipment, expert personnel, practical implementation of acquired knowledge, the most sought-after professions of today, internationally recognized certificates, and work in the selected field during the studies themselves. The study program includes Bachelor and Master vocational studies.

11. **The Istituto Teseo Alta Formazione e Ricerca Foundation** was established in February 2019, first as a scientific association with its headquarters in San Donato Val di Comino (Fr), Italy and later, in July 2020, it became a foundation with its headquarters in San Cipriano Picentino (Sa), Italy, where it currently has its operational and legal headquarters. The Foundation operates in the field of higher education and research, in particular in the field of language mediation studies and training, Language studies, Psychological sciences applied to neurolinguistics and Economic studies.

12. Institute for Contemporary Education, Belgrade, Serbia. The aim of the Institute for Contemporary Education (ICE) is to improve the quality of the education process through the education and training of current and future education professionals and the promotion of state-of-the-art educational technologies. Their mission is to help individuals become more successful, and to help educational institutions in the implementation of technologies and methods aimed at improving the process of education. ICE is an advisory center for all educational leaders, but also a place where future teachers and lecturers can get professional teaching practice. They organize the following activities:

- seminars and panels on current topics in the field of science and education,
- training programs and workshops about innovations in education,
- international conferences dedicated to contemporary education,
- projects related to improvement of the process of education,
- educational consulting,
- teaching practice programs.

13. **Kyrgyz -Turkish Manas University, Bishkek, Kârgâzstan** was founded after two friendly and brotherly countries, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey signed an agreement on establishment of international state university with a special status on September 30, 1995 in the capital city Bishkek of Kyrgyzstan. The mission of the university is to educate the youth from all over the world, primarily from the Turkic Republics and Turkic nations. The most attractive university campus in Central Asia is located in Bishkek, in the foothills of Tengri Mountains, which offers rich, secure, social, cultural and artistic life opportunities for the nation, and where multi-cultural population of people live together in peace and harmony. Turkish and Kyrgyz are official languages of education and training of the University. However, the students have a chance to take Russian, English and Chinese as a foreign language. Education at Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University is completely free of charge. The university has multi-cultural population of 6291 students from 14 different countries. To date, over 8000 students have obtained bachelor, master and doctoral degrees from the university, with such academic knowledge they have advantage in this competitive world and can easily find a job in international business arena.

14. **National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST)** is promoted by SM Charitable Educational Trust. The Trust was established in 1995 by Dr Sukant K Mohapatra and Ms Sanjeeta Mohapatra (both are NRIs based in US) as Founder/Donor Trustees. Dr Sukant Mohapatra is the founder chairman of the Trust and NIST supporting and providing visionary guidance for NIST to become a world class institute. NIST was established in the year 1996 by a group of academicians and technocrats educated in the top institutes of India and abroad. It is the first NRI educational venture in the state of Odisha and first engineering college under Berhampur University and southern Odisha. The primary objective of the founders was to promote NIST as a center of academic excellence and research at par with international universities in their home state of Odisha. Keeping true to its core value, mission and vision, NIST has become a top notch institute in the state and country since its establishment in 1996.

15. **Romanian Ministry of Culture, The Directorate for Culture of the Bucharest Municipality, Bucharest, Romania.** The Ministry of Culture is the central public authority responsible for the development and implementation of strategy and policies in the field of culture. At the legislative and institutional level, the Ministry of Culture ensures the regulation and normative framework specific to the field, as well as the international representation of the Romanian State in matters of art, culture and heritage. The Ministry of Culture is the authority that ensures the protection of the cultural heritage, including the intangible heritage, by creating the specific legislative framework and through evaluation, restoration, conservation and enhancement programs. With regard to contemporary creation, the Ministry has the mission of supporting and stimulating the development of this field, by ensuring an infrastructure and a legal, economic and financial-fiscal framework that simultaneously responds to the needs of creators and producers (public or private), and the public. The Ministry is also responsible for supporting and promoting the culture of national minorities and multiculturalism, as well as creating a specific framework for cultural education and ensuring access and participation in culture for the public from disadvantaged categories and areas. The Ministry of Culture has the central role in reforming and decentralizing the institutional system and the public and private financing systems of the field, with an emphasis on transparency, equal and non-discriminatory access to public funds, effectiveness and specialized evaluation.

16. **South-West University "Neofit Rilski" Blagoevgrad , Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria** was founded in 1975. The university was first founded as a branch of Sofia University. The first 200 students admitted in 1976/77 had two specialties: pedagogy for the preparation of teachers for kindergartens and for primary schools. In this way, for the first time, Bulgaria started preparing teachers with university degrees for kindergartens and primary schools. After 1990, under the influence of the processes of democratization in all spheres of the social life and in accordance with the Law for Academic Autonomy, the Higher School in Blagoevgrad developed at accelerated rates. New specialties and faculties were created. Alongside the education financed by the state, paid education was introduced. In regard to the level of development and the high demand of specialists with university degree especially in the field of Economics, Law and the social activities. The university is divided into seven faculties and one college:

- Faculty of Law and History
- Faculty of Economics
- Faculty of Art
- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science
- Faculty of Pedagogy
- Faculty of Philosophy
- Faculty of Philology

- College of Technical Science

17. The Educational Alliance LINK Group Belgrade, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia . LINK group is a leading multinational company with more than 20 years of success in professional education and certification in the fields of information technology and contemporary business. It is successful locally in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and United States of America and through distance learning it brings together students from over 120 countries worldwide.

18. Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Canada. Toronto Metropolitan University is at the intersection of mind and action. What their students learn in the classroom is enhanced by real-world knowledge and experience. This university champion diversity, entrepreneurship and innovation. Toronto Metropolitan University is currently recognized as a leading institution for research and innovation, being ranked first for research income growth for the second consecutive year and third for research intensity dollars per graduate student, among comprehensive universities in Research Infosource's Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List 2021 . Within the past decade, the university has launched various research centres and institutes, as well as the Zone Learning option for students and business professionals interested in entrepreneurship.

19. **The University Business Academy in Novi Sad (UBANS)** is a higher scientific-educational institution, autonomous and private university, legally formed under the Serbian law. UBANS, established in 2000, is the first privately owned university, which was accredited in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, by both the national and international Quality Assurance Authority. The University owns Certificate of State Accreditation of the Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (CAQA), of the Ministry for Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia, which is a member of an INQAAHE (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) and has a candidate member status with ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education).

20. **The University of Johannesburg (UJ)** is a public university located in Johannesburg, South Africa. The University of Johannesburg came into existence on 2005 as the result of a merger between the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU), the Technikon Witwatersrand (TWR) and the Soweto and East Rand campuses of Vista University. The newly emerged institution is one of the largest comprehensive contact universities in South Africa from the 26 public universities that make up the higher education system. UJ has a student population of over 50.000, of which more than 3000 are international students from 80 countries. UJ is one of the top ranked Universities in South Africa, and is as well highly ranked in the QS World University Rankings and other global rankings.

21. **University of the Western Cape, Bellville - Cape Town, South Africa.** The University of the Western Cape is well-known for its struggle against apartheid and its continued fight against oppression, discrimination and disadvantage in modern day South Africa. Among academic institutions it has been at the forefront of South Africa's historic transformation, playing a leading and unique academic role in helping to build an equitable and dynamic nation. The university is a research-led university responsive to the needs of a changing world through excellence in teaching, learning and research and the generation and application of new knowledge. Firmly anchored in its local and sub-regional context and inspired by its distinctive academic role in building a more equitable and dynamic society, the University continues to empower its students, staff and partners to advance its mission of serving the greater public good and searching for humane and sustainable solutions to the challenges of our time. This is pursued through high academic standards, intellectual rigour and productive partnerships and networks beyond the confines of disciplinary and geographic boundaries.

22. **University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn , Olsztyn, Poland** arose from bold plans and dreams of an academic institution where there would be a place for representatives of various scientific disciplines, educating students ready to change the reality of their region and country. These aspirations motivated the search for common values - what unites rather than what divides. The tree depicted in the university emblem, a symbol of durability and growth, serves as a reminder that UWM respects tradition while remaining open to continuous changes. The roots of the university draw from the experiences of many academic centres that played a significant role in the history of the region, particularly the higher education institutions in Olsztyn. The merger of these institutions led to the establishment of UWM in 1999.. Located in Kortowo, UWM is renowned as one of the most beautiful university campuses in Poland and Europe. The university facilitates the transfer of new technologies and enables companies to benefit from the latest research findings, serving as a scientific showcase for Olsztyn and the region. The university regularly expands its authorisation to confer doctoral and post-doctoral degrees, providing opportunities for career development for academic staff. The need for continuous growth is evident in the ongoing scientific successes of the UWM faculty, as well as in the constantly modernised and expanded university infrastructure.

23. **The University of Zilina, Zilina, Slovakia**, has a very high research output according to the QS World University Rankings. Over the last 57 years, more than 52,000 students have graduated from the university. 1662 of them have been awarded the Ph.D. degree.

24. **USH Pro Business** is a specialized Center for activities dedicated to the entrepreneurial environment of "Spiru Haret" University, being designed to support companies and provide solutions to support competitiveness. The center offers specialized services and assistance for the entrepreneurial environment through projects and programs developed based on a prior consultation with companies and associations from the business environment. The USH Pro Business Center adds value to existing services on the market today, by understanding the needs of partners and connecting them with academia. Offering high quality services to the Romanian business environment, with a dynamic and innovative attitude, USH Pro Business welcomes complete services covering a wide range of activities, research and innovation oriented towards market solutions, professional and vocational training up to support services, to support the competitiveness of companies and clusters, organization of business events, etc. USH Pro Business ensures a careful and detailed observation of changes and trends in the business environment, so that their partners benefit from well-documented professional assistance.

25. **Vasil Levski National Military University, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria** conducts training for: cadets and students in 3 areas of higher education: Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, Technical Sciences, Security and Defence, detailed in 7 professional fields, 15 civilian and 1 military specialty and 21 military specializations corresponding to the branches and special forces. Also, the University conducts training for PhD students in 15 accredited scientific specialties, as well as contingents of the Bulgarian Army for participation in missions abroad.

26. **Vasil Levski National Military University, Shumen, Bulgaria. Artillery, AD and CIS Faculty** is a major branch of Vasil Levski NMU. Accredited by the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation it provides education to cadets, students, post-graduate students and specialists. Different courses are carried out, such as re-training and in-service training, as well as foreign language courses for officers of the Bulgarian army and armies of countries - members of the Partnership for Peace initiative. The faculty also carries out other activities

such as different research work and scientific development activities in the field of military and technical sciences. The faculty follows the old tradition of the military education system, and its mission is to actively work towards the development of the military education in the Republic of Bulgaria. The faculty trains officers for the needs of the Bulgarian Army. They are known to possess excellent professional training, moral, physical and psychological stability and are leaders not only in the army, but also in society. They are capable of achieving excellent results in all army life aspects and are respected partners to the officers of NATO countries.